

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIL-01 /008 W  
----- 048605

R 130551Z APR 76  
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5044  
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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LIMDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER, ELAB, SN, ID

SUBJ: PROPOSED JAKARTA-BASED REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE

REF: STATE 87334

1. SEEN FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE, ASSUMPTION BY LABOR ATTACHE IN  
JAKARTA OF REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES WOULD ENTAIL SOME BENEFITS,  
ALBEIT OF A MARGINAL NATURE. THIS VIEW STEMS PRIMARILY FROM FACT  
THAT AN EMBASSY OFFICER WOULD STILL HAVE TO FOLLOW LOCAL LABOR  
DEVELOPMENTS AND COMPLY WITH SCHEDULED AND SPOT REPORTING  
REQUIREMENTS. MOREOVER, PROPOSAL COMES AT A TIME WHEN OUR OWN  
RESOURCES WHICH CAN BE DEVOTED TO LABOR AFFAIRS WILL BE EXPANDED.  
HERETOFORE, THE LABOR FUNCTION HAS BEEN AN ESSENTIALLY RESIDUAL  
RESPONSIBILITY OF A PART-TIME POLITICAL OFFICER. WITH THE  
ARRIVAL OF A CENTRAL COMPLEMENT OFFICER THIS SUMMER, HOWEVER,  
THE LABOR FUNCTION WILL RECEIVE THE ADDITIONAL ATTENTION IT DESERVES.  
ADVANTAGES OF THE PROPOSAL WOULD DERIVE PRIMARILY FROM THE BROADER  
PERSPECTIVE THAT A KNOWLEDGEABLE REGIONAL OFFICER COULD BRING  
TO BEAR ON LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS AS WELL AS THE GUIDANCE AND  
ADVICE WHICH HE COULD PROVIDE JUNIOR OFFICER HERE WITHOUT  
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PREVIOUS LABOR RESPONSIBILITY OR TRAINING.

2. WE WOULD, THEREFORE, HAVE NO PROBLEM IN PRINCIPLE WITH AN ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY INCUMBENT OF PROPOSED REGIONAL POSITION IN JAKARTA WOULD VISIT SINGAPORE ON OCCASION TO CONSULT WITH OUR OWN LABOR REPORTING OFFICER AND ACCOMPANY LATTER ON CALLS ON SINGAPORE LABOR AND APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. HOWEVER, WE WOULD NOT BE IN FAVOR OF FORMALLY ACCREDITING THE JAKARTA LABOR ATTACHE TO THE GOS. IN A FIELD AS SENSITIVE AS LABOR, AND IN OUR DEALINGS WITH AS PROMINENT AND PRICKLY A LABOR LEADER AS DEVAN NAIR, WE MUST DO NOTHING WHICH COULD OFFEND THE SENSIBILITIES OF EITHER THE GOS OR THE SINGAPORE NTUC.

3. AS WE ENVISAGE POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENT, REGIONAL OFFICER SHOULD PROBABLY NOT COME TO SINGAPORE MORE THAN THREE TIMES EACH YEAR AND CERTAINLY NO MORE THAN ONCE A QUARTER, BARRING EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES. TO DO OTHERWISE COULD GIVE SINGAPOREANS IMPRESSION THAT LABOR REPORTING PORTFOLIO HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM SINGAPORE TO JAKARTA. MOREOVER, WE BELIEVE THAT JAKARTA LABOR ATTACHE SHOULD BE INTRODUCED TO OUR SINGAPORE CONTACTS AS SENIOR LABOR OFFICER IN REGION INTERESTED IN KEEPING ABREAST OF LOCAL TRADE UNION DEVELOPMENTS. SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WOULD PERMIT COVERAGE OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR DIMENSION AS WELL AS PERMIT STATE AND AID TO BE RESPONSIVE TO AAFLI. HOLDRIDGE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LABOR RELATIONS, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS, LABOR ATTACHES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 13 APR 1976  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Film Number:** D760139-0971  
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**TAGS:** ELAB, APER, SN, ID, MY, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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